

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): Control circuit for control of a media heating device of a dental handpiece, comprising a heating current circuit in which there is arranged at least one hand-actuatable switch, which can be actuated by hand, for activating the heating device; and, at least one further, controllable switch element arranged in the heating current circuit, which switch element can be set in dependence upon an external control signal into a conducting condition or a non-conducting condition.

Claim 2 (previously presented): Control circuit according to claim 1, wherein the heating current circuit is connected to an a.c. voltage source and there are provided two controllable switch elements which are arranged anti-parallel in the heating current circuit.

Claim 3 (previously presented): Control circuit according to claim 1, comprising one or two optotriacs to deliver the external control signal to the controllable switch element.

Claim 4 (previously presented): Control circuit according to claim 1, wherein the controllable switch element is a thyristor.

Claim 5 (previously presented): Control circuit according to claim 1, wherein two hand-actuatable switches are arranged in the heating current circuit in parallel to one another, one said switch being provided for activating air media heating and another said switch being provided for activating water media heating.

Claim 6 (previously presented): Control circuit according to claim 1, comprising a valve for a corresponding air or water medium opened upon actuation of each said switch.

Claim 7 (previously presented): Control circuit according to claim 1, further comprising an illumination device for the dental handpiece, which is activated upon activation of the heating device.

Claim 8 (previously presented): Control circuit according to claim 7, wherein the illumination device remains active for a predetermined persistence time after deactivation of the heating device.

Claim 9 (previously presented): Control circuit according to claim 7, wherein the illumination device comprises a control block, which, in dependence upon an input signal, controls a light supply unit for operating a light source.

Claim 10 (previously presented): Control circuit according to claim 9, wherein a voltage drop within the heating current circuit is delivered to the control block as an input signal.

Claim 11 (previously presented): Control circuit according to claim 10, wherein the voltage drop within the heating current circuit is delivered to the control block via an opto-coupler.

Claim 12 (previously presented): Control circuit according to claim 7, wherein the heating current circuit and the illumination device are connected to a common current supply source.

Claim 13 (previously presented): Control circuit according to claim 12, wherein the current supply source issues an a.c. voltage, with a rectifier connected upstream of the illumination device.

Claim 14 (previously presented): Dental handpiece having a heating device for heating at least one of an air supply and a water supply, comprising a control circuit in accordance with claim 1.

Claim 15 (previously presented): Dental handpiece according to claim 14, comprising a dental spray handpiece.

Claim 16 (previously presented): Dental spray handpiece comprising a heating device which can be switched on and switched off, for a medium flowing therethrough, wherein the heating device can be deactivated when the medium is intended for the purpose of at least one of cleaning and disinfecting the spray handpiece.

Claim 17 (previously presented): Dental spray handpiece according to claim 16, wherein the heating device can be deactivated via an external signal.